

Science Fiction Weekly

VOLUME: 1 NO: 3

2574 BEDFORD AVE.

5¢

MARCH 3, 1940

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

NO RIVALRY WITH S.F.L. SAYS EDITOR FRED POHL

Office Astonishing & Super Science Stories, Mar. 1: Frederik Pohl, Manager, Science Fictioneers, stated today that he does not regard the Science Fiction League as a "rival club". There's no reason, he added, why prominent fans should not simultaneously held position on the advisory boards of several national organizations, so far as the Science Fictioneers are concerned.

Ever since I first entered fandom continued Pohl, the field has been a battleground of conflicting ideas expressed in personal or organizational feuds. Up to a certain point, fan-feuds can be stimulating and even of benefit to the field as a whole. But when personal enmity enters in, that is the place to draw a line.

Today, personal enmity seems to be on the agenda as an important order of business. Intellectual differences, which were at the root of the "feuds" seem to have been discarded for spiked-clubs and mud.

The Science Fictioneers will not tolerate this sort of thing. We are here for a constructive purpose; we are here to build up rather than tear down. It is true that our publishers expect to make money through these magazines and expects that a good organization will help boost the magazines --- but it is also true that, fans and readers being what they are, we cannot make a profit unless we deliver the goods.

It must be understood by all that there is no single authority on sci -

ence fiction, no one mouthpiece who can and will speak for all. Science fiction fans are distinct individualists; they will not permit others to speak for them.

In science fiction fandom we find a wide variety of ideas, beliefs, and opinions. We find a multiplicity of aims and motives. All of these must be respected by all fans: it is the right of no one fan or group to say "this is what active fans must do; that is what no fan may do." Every fan, every organization can speak for itself alone.

There is room for a great many fan organizations -- even for a number of organizations connected with professional magazines. When you consider the population of the United States, then you will see that the market is indeed an open one. Consider the percentage of which reads pulp fiction and discover of this second group what percentage reads science fiction. There is room for any number of science fiction magazines -- those which can deliver the goods to their readers' satisfaction will go over. Because of the wide diversity of tastes, any number of magazines with varying approaches can be equally successful.

This same argument applies to the field of fan organizations.

I hope it is clear to all that the Science Fictioneers consider it beneath their dignity to regard any other organization as a "rival club" and to wage a competitive feuds accordingly.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Mr. Ray Wardell, present Chief of Staff at Section 3, Regional Division, 7340, of Technocracy Inc., used to do illustrations for Gernsback magazines! Mr. Wardell knew Gernsback & Dr. Sloane well and illustrated many stf tales for Science & Invention, as well as doing a few in Amazing Stories. This was revealed to us when, at a recent meeting of the Section Study Course group, at which members Chet Cohen, DAW, & Doc, accompanied by Michel and Kornbluth as visitors, attended, the subject shifted to occupations.

After getting back to the Tower, we checked back and found that Mr. Wardell did the illustrations for "A Columbus of Space" (August, September, & October, 1926, Amazing Stories) and "The Purchase of the North Pole" (September, October, 1926, ditto.)

MARVEL NEWS

Feb. 28: Rumours to the effect: that Red Circle Magazines would re-enter the science-fiction and/or fantasy field were laid at rest today when your editor called on Mr. Robert Erisman, one-time editor of the ill-fated Marvel Science Stories and Dynamic Science Stories.

The existing mag., Marvel Tales, will go on as is, however, we were informed. Sex-mystery-horror tales with futuristic settings. "Rays instead of racks?", we inquired? He nodded somewhat unhappily.

FAMOUS & FANTASTIC

Feb. 28: "The International Fantascors Club", proposed organization to be inaugurated in Famous Fantastic Mysteries, will not come into being as soon as was announced in Mid-West Fan News, Miss Gnaedinger informed us today; she had informed Erle Korshak, tentative Managing Secretary of the organization a bit earlier.

Miss Gnaedinger is interested in the idea of some sort of club and/or fan-approach in connection with her magazine, but, due to the wide difference between the FF reader and the general stf public feels that it would be better to make a more searching investigation into best-possible methods of approach first. Thus, the proposed organization is not cancelled but merely postponed

indefinitely; we can be assured that, when it comes through, it will be a credit to the magazine and a joy to the fan and reader.

The forthcoming issue of Famous Fantastic features a real fantastic cover by Paul from "The Beast Plants". Paul will also do the cover on the May issue.

Dick Wilson's

STRICTLY PUBLIC

To date the part we have played in associating the enclosing newspaper has been confined to dozing fitfully (because of the noise) at staff-meetings, held at La Perri's.

The other day, however, Editor Lowndes looked at us fiercely over his would-be-moustache and said: "How about you doing something for Squeaky?"

"Such -as -for -instance -what?" we asked reasonably.

"Oh, I don't know. There must be some news kicking about someplace."

We looked about carefully in corners and under tables, but couldn't find any.

"Well", said Doc helpfully and ungrammatically, "how about this: who are you going to the Chicon as?"

George Kerby, we decided, after careful thought. This would eliminate all the nonsense connected with getting into a complicated, uncomfortable costume in midsummer in Chicago. The idea looks better and better. The only props necessary will be a bottle or three. We shouldn't even need Marion Kerby. She was hanging around Topper most of the time, anyhow. ... That's settled. We reserve all rights to Thorne Smith's George Kerby. (Choice subject to change without notice, of course. We may decide to stay home and go as the Invisible Man.)

SYKORA RAISES ANTE

LI City, Feb. 25: (Fantasy-News Exchange): William S. Sykora, editor of Fantasy-News, who has been offering a reward of \$25 for conclusive evidence leading to the identification of the person or persons who sent him an objectionable Xmas card on Dec. 26th, has increased the sum offered to \$50.

Two, four, six, eight - -
Whom will you impersonate?
- - - cva

Published every Monday at 2574 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. Volume One Number Three; Whole Number Three. Mar. 3, 1940. Five cents per single copy; three issues for ten cents; eight issues for twenty-five cents. Full-page ads accepted at flat rate of seventy-five cents only; each time such ad. is received, an extra page of reading matter is guaranteed. We will air-mail SFW to any cross-continent fans who so desire, providing payment for such service is received in advance. In order that we may bring you all important news, SFW will excerpt from other current fan-weeklies. Such excerpts will be clearly marked "exchange" and the source given. Reciprocal courtesy is granted to our contemporaries with the understanding that the source of all "exchange" be stated.

Editor - in - Chief
Robert W. Lowndes

Associates
Leslie Perri Dick Wilson

TAURASI QUILTS FAPA

Flushing, Feb. 18: James V. Taurasi, prominent semi-professional science-fictionist, has announced that he is no longer a member of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association.

Those who remember him as one of its earliest and most enthusiastic supporters are at a loss to account for his action. Mr. Taurasi has held office in the organization and has taken awards for meritorious work in its behalf.

A BIT OF INDIGESTION

As you may know, the Writers' Digest published in their January, 1940 issue an article by Jerry Westerfeld entitled: "The Sky's No Limit". It dealt with science fiction and touched on fandom.

Unfortunately, the section on fandom was so inaccurate as to be indigestible. Accordingly, we wrote a letter to the editor setting mistakes aright.

On Feb. 26th we received a reply which we quote in part: "To us the subject of your letter of Feb. 4th is a very important matter, and very clear to you. To a certain extent, therefore, you assume that I realize certain facts which I assure you I don't. When you address your note to us ... please write it from the point of view that it will read by someone who is not familiar with the subject and who doesn't have the background you have."

CAMPBELL WARNS FAN-EDITORS

Office, astounding S-F & Unknown, Feb. 28: Mr. John W. Campbell, Jr., expressed, today, his hopes that fan editors would realize that they (or their parents or guardians, if they are under age) are legally responsible for everything that appears in their magazines.

Few fans seem to realize, he stated earnestly, that time and time again, the fanmag editors have missed prosecution on criminal libel charges only because the party or parties libeled considered it unworthy of them to prosecute a bunch of kids. However, there is a limit; if these editors are not careful, they may offend once too often and find themselves behind prison bars as a result.

Some time ago, Mr. Campbell told us, Street & Smith was considering lithographing certain fanmags at a very nominal cost. They decided against it partly because they realized they would have to assume legal responsibility and partly because he (sic) turned thumbs down on the proposition: it would mean that he (sic) would be the editor of those fan-mags, thus taking all the fun out of it for the owners.

Since just recently a case of criminal libel has been in the air (although it has been settled satisfactorily, out of court, without recourse to attorneys) Mr. Campbell hopes that all fan editors will take heed and be careful about what they publish in the future.

BOOST THE CHICON DEBT

The Futurian Society of New York has placed itself on record as 100% behind the Illini Fantasy Fictioneers and the 1940 Convention. And not too far behind, we hope, says Director Lowndes. See you there!

QSFL HEAD DISPARAGES CHICON

Flushing, Feb. 18: The Queens Science Fiction League, its director announced today, will probably have only two representatives at the Chicon. Those have not yet been determined on, but Mr. Taurasi stated that he probably will not be one of them. Mr. Taurasi expects a small attendance: "Not more than two hundred", he said, "are likely to be present."

UNKILLABLE?

There are unkillables, you know. Men who have gone through wars, fire, flood, and disaster unharmed. Men who have a natural immunity to poison gas, to disease.

And what of a generation of men who know nothing but war? Who were born and brought up to the thunder of big guns? What of a conflict that became so vast that no man or set of men could stop the titanic machinery of it?

In the April issue of Astounding Science Fiction starts "Final Blackout", a story editor Campbell believes will rank as one of the six best sf tales of all time. It is written by one well-qualified to handle this type of yarn, a one-time explorer, fighting man, etc -- L. Ron Hubbard.

BSFL NEWS

The most scientific member of the Baltimore Science Fiction League (which has recently affiliated with the Science Fictioneers), Dr. Richard W. Dodson, of the John Hopkins University Staff, has recently completed his new atom-smasher at the University and obtained a big write-up in the local papers, as well as photographs. *** Two of the group have been ill: Miss Virginia Kidd, linguist par excellence, and "Swami" Ward. "Swami" has been in the hospital, but, according to his wife, is now out of danger.

The Baltimore Science Fiction Group is a member of both the Science Fictioneers and the Science Fiction League. It is not interested in any form of inter-fan squabbles, and is strictly neutral in any organizational feuds that may arise.

CHICAGO IN 1940!

REPORT OF THE NIGHT SHIFT

Tower, Feb. 18: (conclusion of item "DC Fans Visit NY" in last week's issue). Rothman entered the Tower waving the recovered FAPA funds and records under our astonished noses. Accompanying him was Elmer E. Perdue, who is reminiscent of John W. Campbell, Jr., in appearance.

Needless to say, we found Perdue a highly personable Johnny. Adjournments were made for spaghetti, then back to the Tower where matters FAPA, etc were discussed. President Rothman revealed that, due to the confusion, it was not easy to ascertain just which members had paid 1940 dues and which had not; thus, the lists will be held open, indefinitely, so that all members eligible to re-enroll may have opportunity to do so. Rothman revealed that a number of members, among them Sam Moskowitz and Will Sykora, have been automatically dropped because of their failure to qualify for active membership by making the minimum contributions of material in the official mailings.

Visit was punctuated by an excursion to an Armenian restaurant, and a trip to the Davenport Free Theatre, where all enjoyed Butler Davenport's portrayal of Louis XI.

JIM AVERY LEAVES FANDOM

Skowhogan, Feb. 28: (Exchange, MSA Bulletin): In a circular entitled: "Why I Have Left Fandom", Jim Avery, former head of the Maine Scientifiction Association, states: "Many of you whom I number among my friends and comrades in fandom are perhaps wondering what prompted me to clear out so utterly and suddenly from the fan world. It is more -- much more -- than a matter of disgust with general circumstances; rather it is an effort on the part of several parties to force me completely out of the fan picture. To them I must bow down. ...

"I am dropping from fandom with a feeling that I have much to lose in friendship, in happiness, and in reputation. Whatever the other fan journals may have to say on the subject, whether good or bad, let the records stand. I leave fandom only under pressure; my slate is clean."